GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
INCIDENT OF NEAR-MISS IN DOMESTIC SKIES .
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a massive mid-air disaster was-averted in the Gujarat skies in September, 2006 when a Jet-Airways Boeing carrying more than 100 passengers and the crew on board swerved away after coming within a grazing 500 feet of an Air Force Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter as reported in the Times of India dated September 22,2006;

(b) If so, the facts thereof ;

(c) Whether the Government has instituted an Enquiry Committee to assess the reasons for the growing incidents of near-miss in the domestic skies ;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avert such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- No, Sir. There was no possibility of mid air collision as the fighter aircraft was in visual contact.However, due to the speed at which the fighter aircraft travels the Traffic and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)of transport aircraft of Jet Airways gave a warning as the fighter aircraft came in the vicinity of the transport aircraft.

(c) and (d):- Separate Inquiry Committees have been constituted by Indian Air Force and Director General of Civil Aviation.

(e):- Safety of aircraft operations and avoiding airmiss incidents is ensured by Directorate General of Civil Aviaiton (DGCA) through relevant Civil Aviation Requirements, making installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) and Mode `S` transponder on aircraft mandatory. Apart from this Airports Authority of India

(AAI) have installed Automatic Dependant Surveillance and Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Refresher courses and proficiency checks for controllers are being carried out annualy. DGCA has also advised AAI to ensure strict compliance of Air Traffic Control procedures and instructions.